

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ARA-10 NEA-10 /127 W
-----127112 061835Z /43

P 061811Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3837
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
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USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
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USEEC

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EINV, SF
SUBJECT: ITF SUPPORT OF ICFTU ANTI-APARTHEID PROTEST
WEEK: REFUSAL TO HANDLE SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS

REF: (A) JOHANNESBURG 489, (B) STATE 51775

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER, JUST ISSUED, CARRIES THE FOLLOWING
ANNOUNCEMENT:
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BEGIN QUOTE
ITF URGES AFFILIATES TO JOIN ICFTU WEEK OF PROTEST
AGAINST APARTHEID
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
OF FREE TRADE UNIONS HAS DECIDED TO LEND ITS FULL SUP-
PORT TO THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR AGAINST APARTHEID,
WHICH BEGINS ON 21 MARCH, AND IS CARRYING OUT A CON-

TINUOUS CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE YEAR AIMED AT FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE EXPLOITATION OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS UNDER THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID AND AT PUTTING PRESSURE ON EMPLOYERS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE RECOGNITION OF BLACK UNIONS.

THE CAMPAIGN IS BEING HERALDED BY A WEEK OF PROTEST BEGINNING ON 13 MARCH AND ENDING ON THE 21ST (THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE), THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF WHICH ARE THE LIFTING OF THE BANNING ORDERS IMPOSED ON MANY SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONISTS AND THOSE ASSISTING THEM; THE GRANTING OF RECOGNITION TO BLACK UNIONS; AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL TRADE UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR BLACK WORKERS.

THE ITF IS IN COMPLETE SYMPATHY WITH THE OVERALL AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN YEAR AND HAS ACCORDINGLY CONTACTED ITS AFFILIATES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, URGING THOSE WHO BELONG TO NATIONAL CENTRES AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU TO PLAY A FULL PART IN THE CONTRIBUTION THEIR CENTRE IS MAKING TOWARDS THE ICFTU CAMPAIGN. OTHER AFFILIATES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CARRY OUT A SIMILAR CAMPAIGN OF THEIR OWN, WHERE POSSIBLE IN CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER UNIONS OR CENTRES AT NATIONAL LEVEL.

THE FEDERATION HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THE TYPE OF ACTION THAT MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN BY AFFILIATES DURING THE PROTEST WEEK, IN LINE WITH THE GUIDANCE GIVEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ICFTU. THIS INCLUDES:-
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-- NATIONAL RALLIES AND PRESS CONFERENCES TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE WEEK;
-- PRESSURE ON COMPANIES (BY MEANS OF WORKERS' RALLIES AND LETTERS, REPRESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS TO MANAGERIALS WITH SUBSIDIARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA) TO GRANT RECOGNITION TO BLACK TRADE UNIONS (THE STRONGEST ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST COMPANIES WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING DISPUTES WITH AFRICAN UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA);
-- A RENEWED CAMPAIGN AMONG RANK-AND-FILE TRADE UNIONISTS AIMED AT DISCOURAGING WHITE IMMIGRATION (A BAN ON ADVERTISEMENTS FOR JOBS IN SOUTH AFRICA IS ADVOCATED) AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON COMPANIES TO CEASE RECRUITMENT OF WHITE WORKERS FROM OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA IN FAVOUR OF THE TRAINING AND PROMOTION OF AFRICAN LABOUR;
-- RENEWED PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS TO WITHDRAW CREDIT GUARANTEES AND EXPORT LICENCES (SIC), TO COMPLY WITH UN DECISIONS AGAINST TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, TO REFUSE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO THE BANTUSTANS, TO END ALL CULTURAL CONTACTS, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO PROTEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REPRESSION, KEEPING ALIVE THE ISSUE OF TRADE UNION BANNINGS;
-- A CAMPAIGN OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ACTION,

INCLUDING A REFUSAL TO HANDLE GOODS GOING TO AND FROM
SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE WEEK.
THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD FEELS THAT THE WEEK, IF IT IS

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TO HAVE THE DESIRED IMPACT, MUST INVOLVE WORKERS AT
THE SHOP-FLOOR LEVEL AND TRADE UNIONS HAVE THEREFORE
BEEN URGED TO PREPARE THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR THE NECESSARY
ACTION. END QUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO TUC OFFICIALS, THE MAIN
THRUST OF TUC SUPPORT FOR THE ICFTU WEEK OF PROTEST
IS TAKING THE FORM OF ENCOURAGING RALLIES, ADVERTISE-
MENTS, DEPUTATIONS, AND OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC EXPRES-
SION TO DRAMATIZE AND BRING PRESSURE FOR THE RECOGNI-

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TION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THUS THE TUC IS ISSUING LEAFLETS TO GENERALLY PUBLICIZE THE ISSUES AMONG RANK-AND-FILE TRADE UNIONISTS AND DISTRIBUTING SPECIAL CIRCULARS TO TRADE UNION OFFICIALS WITH ACCESS TO TOP-LEVEL MANAGERS OF APPROXIMATELY 200 MAJOR UK COMPANIES WITH SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS OR LARGE NUMBERS OF BLACK EMPLOYEES IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE TUC IS NOT CALLING FOR SPECIFIC INDUSTRIAL ACTION AS PART OF ITS CAMPAIGN, AND TUC OFFICIALS EXPECT LITTLE, IF ANY TO BE TAKEN BY AFFILIATES. TUC OFFICIALS PRIVATELY STATE A CALL FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION WOULD LIKELY FOCUS PRESS ATTENTION ON THE WEAKNESSES OF SUCH A RESPONSE (AND POSSIBLY EXPOSE AFFILIATES TO LEGAL ACTION, E.G., BY INTERFERENCE WITH THE MAILS). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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